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UNICEF Visiting
Aruba pg 3

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The Italian Connection on Aruba: Inaugural Eden Viaggi weekly tours arrives!



A distinctive memento for Mr. Turletto; A present for Peter Steinmetz from Eden Viaggi
See story on page 5

N.Korea says won't hit back at S.Korea, open to UN experts

YEONPYEONG ISLAND (AFP) - North Korea yesterday forswore retaliation against a South Korean live-fire drill and held out an olive branch over its nuclear drive, raising hopes for an easing to the region's worst crisis in years.

The communist state said it "did not feel any need to retaliate against every despicable military provocation," despite previously vowing a deadly riposte to the South's drill on the border island of Yeonpyeong.

"The world should properly know who is the true champion of peace and who

is the real provocateur of a war," the North's military command said in a statement on the official news agency KCNA.

North Korea had used a November 23 live-fire exercise by South Korean marines on Yeonpyeong to justify a bombardment of the Yellow Sea island that killed four people.

South Korea, defying Chinese and Russian pressure, went ahead with another exercise yesterday that involved heavy artillery, air force jets and the reported deployment of two naval destroyers.

The drill came after the UN Security Council Sunday failed to agree a statement on the Korean crisis, with diplomats saying that China had refused to allow any public condemnation of its communist allies in Pyongyang.

China yesterday issued a strong appeal at the UN for "maximum restraint" by the two Koreas and vowed to make new efforts to ease the military tensions.

Seoul, which was outraged last month by the first shelling of civilian areas since the 1950-53 Korean War, rejected criticism from Beijing and Moscow

Prime Minister ecstatic about meeting results Passing of new law is a historical victory



ORANJESTAD -- After an 18 hour debate in Aruba's Parliament, at almost 3 am Saturday Parliament approved the proposed law to introduce major changes in the pension scheme for Parliamentarians and Ministers of government.

This new law introduces not only a change in the retirement age for these top level government officials, but also in the compensation plan for those leaving office, the so called "overbruggingstoelage." It is believed that the new law will give new meaning and justification for this compensation.

The Prime Minister expressed his satisfaction that they have finally succeeded in executing the Fowler Report and that the proposed changes are now law.

In his words, the Prime Minister remarked that ... "this is not a matter of honor,

but a matter of principle. And, as Prime Minister of this island the general interest of the island is of primary concern."

Mike Eman continued by saying that...."issues of general interest require the cooperation and involvement of every one and undoubtedly those first called to set the example are government officials."

"We did not accept the mandate to lead so we can serve ourselves, but so that we can serve the people; and in our leadership we must be the example in this initiative," he continued saying.

The minister expressed satisfaction that the law has been passed and that Parliamentarians were honest and sincere with the people; and were able to lay aside political interests to attend to the interest of the people.

Continued on page 2

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Italiëstraat 36, Oranjestad, as this branch is spacious and offers ample parking space.

As for the staff members at Boulevard Branch, these will be relocated to other larger branches in order to continue offering you optimal service and to help you reach your financial goals.

Prime Minister Ecstatic

Continued from page 1

Despite the long meeting which dealt with issues related to the proposed law, and unnecessary discussions regarding how it will benefit politicians more than it appears, rather than keeping the focus on the general interest, they were able to press on to approve the law.

It was remarkable to witness opposition members put aside their political interests and differences and unite with the government for the realization of something with such major significance. The Minister expressed great lament for those who could not see the benefits of the new law for Aruba and refused to lay aside their differences. Mike Eman concluded saying that we now have, with the passing of this new law, a just and honest law which can be respected in its application by all civil servants. He expressed gratitude to all those who contributed to the realization of the new law.



Pointers to Ponder

Tony A.D. Green

www.people-self-development.com

The 7 Little Things that Make a Big Difference

You've heard this statement many, many times...It's the little things that count; and it is true. We, all of us, have myriad opportunities every day to do the little things in our lives with enough power to make a big difference. It's easy, and it's fun. In the process, you'll gain goodwill, and self confidence.

Here they are, 7 little, powerful things that make a big difference in your life and in the lives of the people you rub shoulders with every day.

1. Say "Thank you."

Such a small thing, but the effect it has on everything around you is profound. Gratitude is a force so powerful that it transforms the giver, the receiver, and the world at large simultaneously. Heartfelt gratitude, humbly expressed, heals as it praises. Look the person serving you, whoever they may be, right in the eye and say "Thank you for doing this" and watch what happens. This is such a simple way to pay it forward, and it has such long lasting positive repercussions that you would be well served to make it a principle part of your daily practices. This one concept can change your life for the better forever, starting right now. Let's stop taking people and their service to us for granted, and begin expressing our thanks.

2. Yield the right of way.

Let someone into your lane in front of you on the highway, or the streets. Suggest that the person with a few items go before you with your full shopping cart. Step aside and let the tired mommy with the stroller and child through the door that you hold open with a smile. Wait patiently

while the elderly man tells his stories to the waitress, even if it means your order will take a few minutes longer. Believe me when I tell you that doing all these things will give you a greater sense of community, deeper compassion, and it will serve to significantly calm YOU down when you are feeling stressed and hurried. Kindness expands, and it fills the space with goodwill and cooperation.

3. Give sincere praise.

Everyone I know appreciates being appreciated, though how they prefer it to be expressed varies. But overall, and with very few exceptions, an honest compliment is always welcome. It can create instant rapport, and bridge many an awkward gap. You'd be amazed at what happens when you utter a simple compliment to someone with a worried look, or someone who appears angry. Your sincere praise or compliment can be just what the person needed to get them over their bridge of defeat or unhappiness.

4. Be a good Listener.

You were given two ears and one mouth, use them in that proportion. Listening makes you appear more charming, too, so there's a bonus.

We are often so prone to speak, to say things, to offer advice; but very slow to just shut up and listen. Listening is an art that always makes a huge difference. Let's speak less and listen more. I have often said...a truly wise man is he who listens first, then listens again before he utters a word. Let's be wise people.

5. Send a personal note.

Snail mail correspondence is a lost art. To make a big impression and touch someone's

heart, send a short note to congratulate or compliment someone for an accomplishment or a new appointment. The time and effort you incur will pay huge dividends in goodwill. Even if you have to use the internet or the BB to send it, go ahead, but send that personal note! Let the person know that you are rejoicing for and with them, it is an important act of goodwill!

6. Use your manners.

Good manners are social lubricant. They oil the machine of humanity. Using good manners conveys respect, both for self and for others. Bad manners are to have a conversation with someone but you do all the talking! Civility in conversation allows everyone the opportunity to express themselves fully and to be heard. Meaningful discourse will be the natural result. Good manners are the foundation of polite society, and politeness can be both charming and disarming. Use good manners and social graces to woo your love, court a client, ease your way with authority. You'll go far with good manners.

7. Share.

Whether it's your cookies or your time, share. Every single person reading this has something, some talent, some time, some money, some compassion, and some fun that they could share with others. This is an abundant Universe, with plenty for everyone, if we'd only share. If you think you have nothing to share, then don't go where other people are! You can always share at least your smile.

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UNICEF visits Aruba for significant research on children, woman's concerns



The Minister of Social and Economic Affairs, has recently welcomed representatives of a consultant group hailing from Ecuador sent under the auspices of UNICEF to do an analysis and research of the quality of life of Aruba's children and women.

This year Aruba became the 36th member country of UNICEF in the Latin American/Caribbean region. Membership in UNICEF affords Aruba various benefits, such as this investigation which they are about to initiate.

Upon the initiative and insistence of Minister Winklaar-Hooyboer, UNICEF representatives made a first ever visit to Aruba, at which time it was decided that an in-depth study would be conducted. In this study UNICEF will create an index for the evaluation of various aspects of the life of our children and

women with respect to health, education, social environment and other issues.

Several meetings were held with the major stakeholders who are expected to play an important role in the realization of the 6 month analysis to take place. The University of Aruba as well as the Department of Statistics will be involved in the ongoing process of the investigation.

Upon completion of the investigation, Aruba will have established her own UNICEF center and the work of executing the treaty for children will begin in earnest. It is expected that the consulting company will return to Aruba in January to begin their work.

Obviously Aruba will be eager to have them and will offer all the necessary cooperation.

Pointers to ponder

Continued from page 2

You'd be amazed at how many people out there are starving for just one smile from one somebody....so, share.

So there you have it...7 little things that make a big difference. We must practice them one by one. Together, they make a glorious way to go through life. But more than that, these 7 little tips are concrete, attainable and immediate ways to shift your energy,

your point of view, and the way the world works. Practice them regularly, and be prepared for a dramatic increase in abundance, personal confidence, ease and grace. It's all good. Remember, what you give has a mysterious way of coming back to you in multiples! Finally, in all your doing, remember that God can and will help us to be or become the person we ought to be...draw on His strength!

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Minister Hooyboer-Winklaar presented with DVD of "Bon Nuchi Drumi Dushi"



ORANJESTAD - As a 'thank you' gesture for her active participation and support during the whole year of the project "Bon Nuchi Drumi Dushi"- "Good Night Sleep Tight" a group of volunteers, which visits homes to read to families at bedtime for the youngsters, paid a courtesy visit to Minister of Economic Affairs, Social Affairs and Culture, Michelle Hooyboer-Winklaar. The organizer and director of the project, Olga Buckley, presented the minister with a DVD of the various sessions. The foundation also discussed their plans for the year 2011 and the minister affirmed the volunteers of her participation.

"Bon Nuchi Drumi Dushi" has the purpose of bringing families together while reading stories, so as to instill the children with enthusiasm for reading, and as-

sociate it with love, harmony and creativity within a family.

Minister Hooyboer-Winklaar thanked the volunteers for their valuable work. The group of volunteers and the families requesting the reading sessions are both grow-

ing steadily. Olga Buckley is the author of many books and poems, among them a poem she dedicated to Dutch Minister President Jan Peter Balkenende on the occasion of his farewell on Aruba.

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Fundacion RESPETA BIDA...semper corda

This past Friday, December 17th 2010, at the office of notary Ralph Yarzagaray, Fundacion RESPETA BIDA...semper corda, which translates to RESPECT LIFE...always remember, was officially installed as a foundation. The main goals of the foundation are: to safeguard the rights of every member of society in Aruba; promote tolerance, solidarity, freedom and equality of every co-citizen; fight specifically against practices of racism, anti-semitism and xenophobia, which can rear their heads at any time.

The first board of directors of the foundation consists of: Mrs. Diana Gonzalez-Pieters as president and Mr. Jose Fernandes Perna, vice-president; Mrs. Martha Goldenberg-Lichten-

stein as secretary; Mr. Frank Williams, second secretary; and Mrs. Shereen de Cuba as treasurer. Mrs. Doina Eman, as official godmother of the foundation, acts as the protector of Fundacion RESPETA BIDA...semper corda. All fundraising efforts for the project will be in the hands of David Cybul and Marlon Pieters.

The Anne Frank Statue.



The first project spearheaded by Fundacion RESPETA BIDA...semper corda is to place a statue of Anne

Frank at the park that is located in front of Juliana School and Reina Beatrix School. The foundation chose Anne Frank

as a commemorative symbol to always remember that a holocaust can happen again, if a community does not know how to co-exist peacefully.

The life that Anne Frank had to experience as a child during the Second World War is well known, thanks to her personal diary. Anne Frank's personal diary was titled "Het Achterhuis" and was translated into more than 70 languages, and recently also into Portuguese.

Fundacion RESPETA BIDA...semper corda is convinced that Anne Frank, as a symbol, will be able to inspire every human being, old and young, to always be alert against any kind of discriminatory manifestations.

Continued on page 12

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The Italian Connection on Aruba: Inaugural Eden Viaggi weekly tours arrives!



Minister of Tourism, Transport and Labor, Otmar Oduber, proudly presented a distinctly Aruban memento to Products Manager of Eden Viaggi tours, Danilo Turletto, in celebration of their first weekly flight on Panorama Blue Airlines, which arrived on Saturday afternoon, December 18.

Eden Viaggi is the second largest tour operator in Italy, with 11,000 travel agents throughout the country promoting their tours. Danilo Turletto expressed his great

satisfaction in seeing this new weekly package to Aruba becoming a reality. "I visited this island 18 years ago on a vacation and was immediately impressed with the quality of service, charm of the surroundings, and the remarkable hospitality of its people," he told the gathering of dignitaries in the Reina Beatrix International Airport V.I.P. room upon his arrival. "Eden Viaggi is determined to see this as a fruitful long term relationship, and expects to help many other Ital-

ians discover this lovely destination."

The weekly flight direct from Milan continues on to Dominican Republic after first dropping off their passengers for Aruba. Bringing in the inaugural flight was Captain Phillippe van den Bosche, also an Aruban veteran who flew here frequently with KLM 15 years ago. "I am delighted to be on Aruba again and could not help noticing, while coming in for a landing, how it has grown-particularly the airport," he commented, though disappointed he had to almost immediately embark for DR after the welcome ceremonies.

Mr. Turletto was presented with a gift from Peter Steinmetz, Director of the Aruba Tourism Authority, who received a gift from the Eden Viaggi Products Manager in return. Minister Oduber was gifted with some rather heavy reading, literally: a beautifully bound edition of Dante Alighieri's epic poem "The Di-



A warm island greeting for Captain van den Bosche

vine Comedy."

Gerry Pepermans of EL Tours, which handles ground transportation for Eden Viaggi reports that the tour company has about half the plane filled with vacationers departing Milan for Aruba over the coming winter. All parties involved believe this new tour package offered to the travel-loving

Italian people will be extremely popular as more discover Aruba's many assets. Additionally interesting for island residents will be the availability of reasonably priced tickets from Aruba to Milan and return with Eden Viaggi, which can be booked through EL Tours.

by Rosalie Klein

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Sci-Tech**Life on Earth kickstarted 3 billion years ago: study**

PARIS (AFP) – Life on Earth dramatically surged around three billion years ago, possibly when primitive forms developed more efficient ways to harness energy from sunlight, according to a study published on Sunday in *Nature*.

The conclusion is made by scientists at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), who built a "genomic fossil", in essence a mathematical model that took 1,000 key genes that exist today and calculated how they evolved from the very distant past.

The collective genome of all life expanded massively between 3.3 and 2.8 billion years ago, and during this time 27 percent of all presently existing gene families came into being, the study suggests.

Investigators Eric Alm and Lawrence David said the great surge probably came

through the advent of a biochemical process called modern electron transport.

This is a key biological function, involving the movement of electrons within the membranes of cells. It is central to plants and to some microbes, enabling them to harvest energy from the Sun through photosynthesis and to breathe oxygen.

The big change, which Alm and David dub the Archean expansion, was followed some 500 million years later by a phenomenon known as the Great Oxidation Event, when Earth's atmosphere became progressively flooded with oxygen.

The Great Oxidation Event is possibly the biggest species turnover in Earth's history, as primitive or microbial lifeforms that were non-oxygen breathers died out and were replaced by bigger, smarter aerobic forms.

"Our results can't say if the development of electron transport directly caused the Archean Expansion," David admitted.

"Nonetheless, we can speculate that having access to a much larger energy budget enabled the biosphere to host larger and more complex microbial ecosystems."

Early fossils date back to a period called the Cambrian Explosion, some 588 million years ago.

But pre-Cambrian life-forms were soft-bodied and, with rare exceptions, did not leave a fossil imprint. Even so, they did leave a legacy in abundant DNA, which explains the bid to recreate the "genomic fossil" by computer.

"What is really remarkable about these findings is that they prove that the histories of very ancient events are recorded in the shared DNA of living organisms," said Alm.

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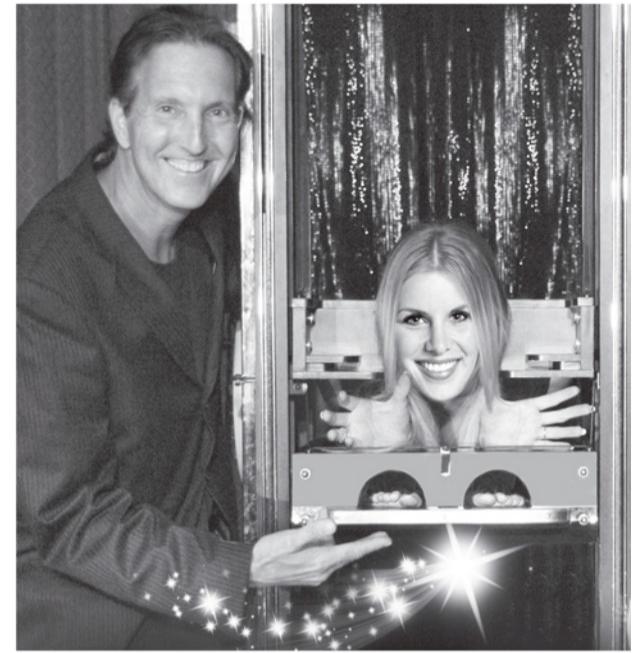
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Nokia may be considering Windows 7 Phones

Nokia and Microsoft are reportedly discussing an alliance that would lead to Nokia-branded smartphones running the Windows Phone 7 mobile operating system. The claim comes from respected Russian tech blogger Eldar Murtazin, the man behind many of the smartphone leaks you see today.

Murtazin reports (in Russian, via Google Translate) that Nokia secretly met with Microsoft over the past

month, discussing expanded cooperation. Murtazin implies that it's not a cooperation based on better Microsoft Office products for Nokia phones, but about creating a whole line of Nokia-branded smartphones running the Windows Phone 7 mobile operating system.

It must be mentioned that Nokia has repeatedly denied that it plans to use a different smartphone OS than its own Symbian and MeeGo.

Fears over rise in crime fuelled by smartphone craze

PARIS (AFP) – The fashionable folk tapping on Blackberrys or using apps on iPhones in New York, Paris or Barcelona have more in common than a taste for expensive hand-held devices.

They are also likely to be targeted by thieves in a smartphone crime wave fuelled by the enormous appetite for the machines that serve as status symbols, essential worktools and mobile entertainment centres.

The Paris police chief sounded the alarm last week when he said smartphones were the hottest item for thieves on the city's metro and that robbers were increasingly turning to violence to get their hands on them.

Seventy percent of all phones stolen on the transport system are now iPhones or Blackberrys or the other smartphones that can cost hundreds of euros (dollars), according to police figures.

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Health & Living

Scientists find gene clue to 130 brain diseases

PARIS, France --(AFP) Scientists recently said they had discovered a bouquet of proteins that play a critical role in the development of more than 130 brain diseases.

Their study also highlights a surprising link between these disorders -- including Alzheimer's and Parkinson's -- and the evolution of human behaviour, they said.

The human brain is a labyrinth of millions of specialised nerve cells interconnected by billions of electrical and chemical pathways called synapses.

Within these synapses are proteins that combine together, forming a molecular machine known as the post-synaptic density, or PSD, which is believed to disrupt synaptic functioning, causing disease and behavioural change.

Seth Grant of Britain's Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute led a team that extracted PSDs from synapses of patients undergoing brain surgery. "We found over 130

brain diseases involve the PSD -- far more than expected," said Grant. "The human PSD is at centre stage of a large range of human diseases affecting millions of people."

Besides common and debilitating neurodegenerative disorders, these include epilepsies and childhood development diseases such as autism.

The PSDs identified so far come from combinations of 1,461 proteins, each encoded by a separate gene.

"We now have a comprehensive molecular playlist of 1,000 suspects," noted Jeffrey Neubols, a professor at Baylor College of Medicine in Texas.

"Every seventh protein in this line-up is involved in a known clinical disorder, and over half of them are repeat offenders. To help accelerate this goal, the researchers have released all their data into the public domain, and created the first-ever "molecular roadmap" for human synapses showing how proteins and diseases interconnect. We can also see

ways to develop new genetic diagnostic tests and help doctors classify the brain diseases," Grant said.

Unexpectedly, the study also revealed the proteins in PSDs have deep evolutionary roots and play an indirect role in cognitive behaviours such as learning and memory, as well as emotion and mood.

Compared with other gene-encoded proteins, the PSD proteins evolved much more slowly. "The conservation of the structure of these proteins suggests that the behaviours governed by the PSD and the diseases associated with them have not changed much over many millions of years," Grant said. It also shows that the synapses in rodents are more similar to humans than previously thought, suggesting that mice and rats are good models for examining human brain disease, he said.

Brain disease and disorders are the leading cause of medical disability in the developed world, according to the UN's --W.H.O.

Health Briefs

Haiti cholera toll passes 2,500

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AFP) -- Haiti's cholera toll has passed 2,500, official figures showed Sunday, dashing hopes the fatality rate might be beginning to taper off.. The health ministry listed 2,535 deaths since the outbreak in the impoverished Caribbean nation erupted in mid-October. Almost 57,000 of the 114,497 people infected have been treated in hospital.

US water has large amounts of likely carcinogen

WASHINGTON (AFP) -- A US environmental group has found that drinking water in 35 American cities contains hexavalent chromium, a probable carcinogen, The Washington Post reported. The study by the Environmental Working Group -- the first nationwide analysis measuring the presence of the chemical in US water systems -- is to be made public, the daily reported. The group found hexavalent chromium in the tap water of 31 out of 35 cities sampled. Of those, 25 had levels that exceeded the goal proposed in California, which has been trying aggressively to reduce the chemical in its water supply.

Germany sounds alarm over 'legal high' drugs

BERLIN, Germany (AFP) - German officials warned of the dangers of "legal highs", the increasingly popular drugs that are not against the law but still carry "incalculable" health risks to consumers. The Federal Crime Office and the government's drug tsar issued a joint statement "urgently warning against the misuse of legal high products." "There are incalculable health risks attached" to the drugs, often sold as "plant food" or "bath salt", the officials said. Consumers of the drugs can suffer from circulatory failure, unconsciousness, hallucinations and muscle decay and often require emergency hospital treatment, according to the statement.

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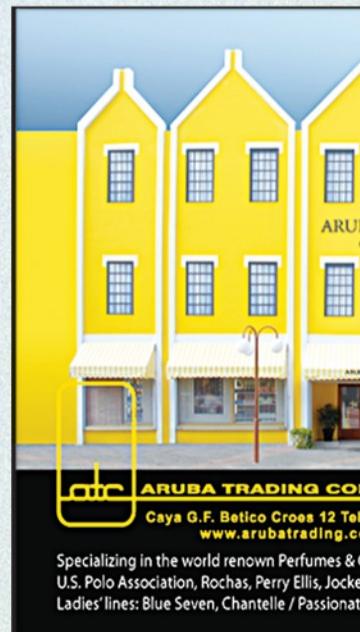
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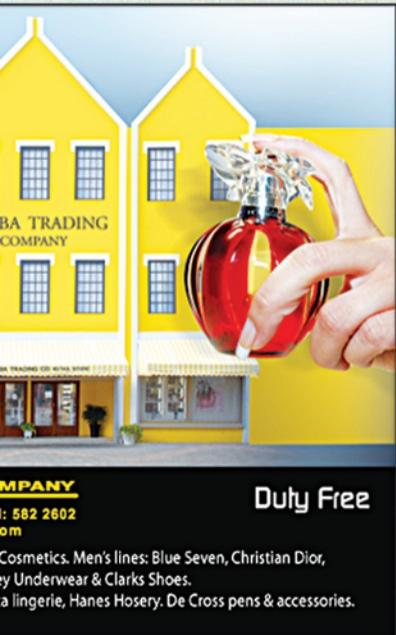
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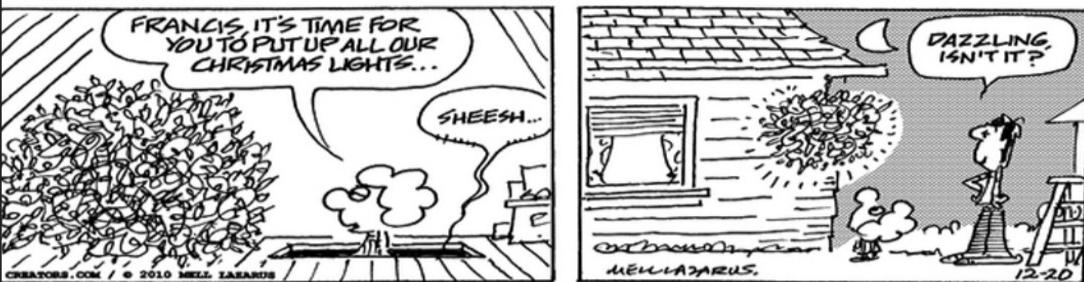


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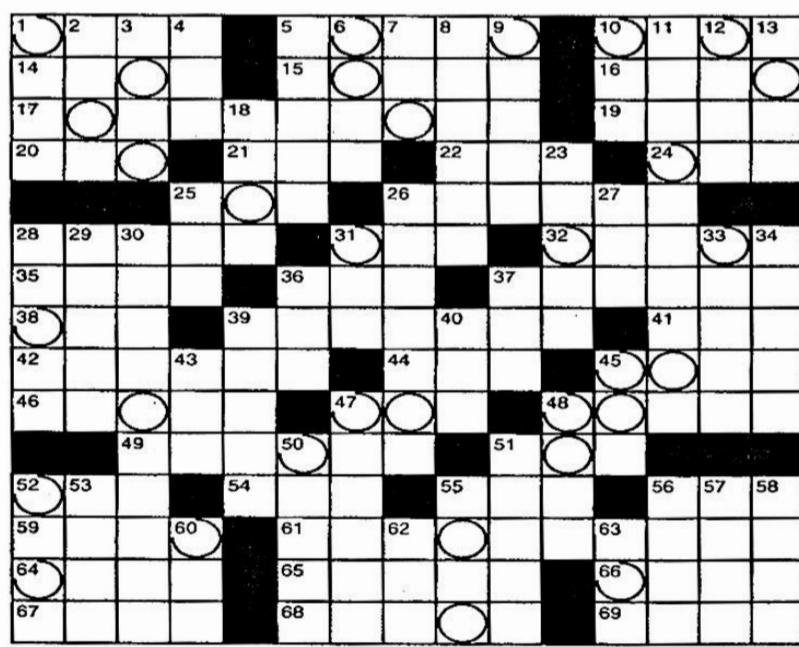
Solve this puzzle as you would a regular crossword. Then read the circled letters from left to right, and they will reveal a quotation.

ACROSS

1. Radial
5. Nuance
10. Needlefish
14. Greek concert halls
15. Window sections
16. Touch
17. Rooftop apartments
19. Mother of Castor
20. Held a session
21. Petroleum
22. Existed
24. Embarrassed
25. Dolores — Rio
26. Actress Elizabeth —
28. Potato grinder
31. Time span: abbr.
32. Sidestep
35. Medicinal plant
36. Outlaw
37. Egg mixer
38. Over there
39. Exile
41. Philippine native
42. Signs up
44. King of Judah
45. Enemies
46. Risked
47. Black cuckoo
48. Artistic category
49. Warns
51. Coal crib
52. Section of grass
54. Classic car
55. French dance
56. I love: Lat.
59. Moistureless

61. Had a mutual effect

61. Had a mutual effect
64. Doily fabric
65. Artless
66. Of aircraft
67. Emmets
68. Does in
69. Belgian river
- DOWN
1. A-one
2. Brainchild
3. Charter
4. Devour
5. Go bad
6. Drag
7. Reply: abbr.
8. Turkish council
9. Attempt
10. Guy's mate
11. Delusion
12. Ill-mannered
13. African village
18. Garden worker
23. Winter rain
25. Actress Sandra
26. Destroyers
27. Eggs
28. Radiated
29. Actress Massey
30. Gainsay
31. Cushion
33. Discourage
34. Clean a slate
36. Public vehicle
37. Youth gp.
39. Select from a catalog
40. "Do ____ say ____"
43. Long fish
45. Marsh
47. Having no key, in music
48. Arizona river
50. Controls
51. Exposes
52. Room, in Spain
53. Algerian city
55. Quail group
56. Sweetsop
57. Simple
58. Skunk feature
60. ____ Plaines
62. Spanish aunt
63. Low island



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EMERGENCY
Telephone 911
POLICE HDQS
Telephone 100

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C.V. TAS
587-1998, 587-5900
In Oranjestad:
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582-5447
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Sudoku

5	3		2		7			
2		6		3	9			
				4		6	3	
8			9	4			5	
	5	3			4	1		
6			2	5			8	
6	9		4					
		1	9	6	7	2	3	8
4	2	1	6	7	5	3	9	8

SOLUTION

1	8	4	6	7	2	5	3	9
3	2	5	1	9	8	6	4	7
6	9	7	4	5	3	8	2	1
4	6	3	8	6	7	4	1	2
9	5	3	8	4	1	3	5	6
8	7	2	9	5	8	4	2	6
7	1	9	5	3	9	1	8	5
2	4	6	7	3	9	1	6	3
5	3	8	2	1	6	7	9	4

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

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Finance

Qatar, Gulf region to benefit from World Cup: bank

KUWAIT CITY, (AFP) — Qatar and its Gulf neighbours are set to benefit immensely with the expected spending bonanza from Doha hosting the football World Cup in 2022, an economic report said this week-end.

Tiny gas-rich Qatar had already announced plans to spend at least 100 billion dollars even before being selected to host the world's biggest sporting event, the National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) said in a report.

"Hosting the World Cup foremost adds a sense of urgency and an ultimate hard deadline for the completion of the projects critical to a successful hosting," the report said.

Projects in the pipeline include a 25-billion-dollar metro and rail network, some sections of which will be ready for the World Cup, and a 10-billion-dollar Doha International Airport, the first phase of which will open in 2012.

Other major projects include a deep water port at a cost of seven billion dollars and the four-billion-dollar Qatar-Bahrain causeway. Qatar also plans to spend 20 billion dollars to build and expand roads, the report said.

Projects planned for the World Cup include building 12 state-of-the-art stadiums at a cost of four billion dollars, NBK said.



Qatari officials have also pledged to add 90,000 new hotel rooms before 2022, although FIFA requires the addition of only 65,000 rooms, NBK said.

"Hosting the World Cup will set tight deadlines, create extra spending, bring in new expertise and present additional motivation and incentives," the report said.

NBK said the whole Gulf region looked set to gain from Qatar 2022's spillover effects, especially for the scores of contractors in the region.

Some regional companies are likely to join forces to meet extra demand created by Qatar's World Cup preparations, and intra-regional trade will be boosted, it said.

A good deal of the raw materials involved in the construction of many projects will be sourced from neighbouring countries, and large regional financial institutions would also benefit by sharing in funding, it said.

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JPMorgan Chase buys old Lehman London HQ

LONDON, England (AFP) — US bank JPMorgan Chase has agreed to buy the former European headquarter of failed peer Lehman Brothers for some 500 million pounds, vendor Canary Wharf Group announced.

"JPMorgan today acquired 25 Bank Street in Canary Wharf from Canary Wharf Group Plc," CWG said in a statement, added that the US firm will pay a total of 495 million pounds (585 million euros, 768 million dollars).

"The building will become the new European headquarters of JPM's investment bank in 2012," it added.

The tower, which has more than one million square feet of floor space, used to house Lehman Brothers until the US investment bank collapsed in



September 2008 as the global financial crisis broke.

The move will bring together JPMorgan's investment bank division which is currently spread across four locations in London.

"Even during the recession, we have continued to invest and grow our businesses internationally," JPMorgan chief

Financial Briefs :

HANOI, Vietnam: Southeast Asia's largest hydroelectric power station has begun operating to help ease an electricity shortage in fast-growing Vietnam, an official said.

BEIJING, China: The amount of foreign currency flowing into China slowed in November but was still the second highest monthly total in 2010, the government said.

MADRID: The Spanish government intends to raise the retirement age and change the calculation method of pensions as part of an overhaul aimed at reducing the public deficit, Labour Minister Valeriano Gomez said.

JOHANNESBURG: South African petrochemical giant Sasol said it has signed a billion-dollar (789-million-euro) deal to buy a 50-percent stake in a shale gas field owned by Canadian energy firm Talisman.

PARIS: French bank Credit Agricole and CITIC Securities, China's biggest listed brokerage, have agreed on holding equal stakes in a proposed tie-up of brokerage activities, the companies said.

SEOUL: Creditors of South Korea's Hyundai Engineering and Construction said they would scrap an agreement to sell their controlling stake in the firm to Hyundai Group for about 4.8 billion dollars.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

TURN	SPA	SCAT
ATEE	PIT	COCO
MAST	ANAGRAMS	SHE IRK RATES
SHE	IRK	RATES
NICK	LIP	
BETTY	CAN PAD	
AYES	COW PONE	
RED	CUT HANDS	
TOP	BOLT	
LOWER	KIT OIL	
AMENDING	SODA	
MELT	LEO KNOT	
ENDS	LET ISLE	

PARIS, France: Spain has every chance of rising above its economic crisis if it enacts bold reforms, the OECD said, as the government announced details of a pension overhaul, the latest in a series of steps to regain market confidence.

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Fundacion RESPETA BIDA

Continued from page 4

Specific Programs.

Fundacion RESPETA BIDA...semper corda wants to realize its goals through a series of activities and programs, such as:

a. Continuously raising awareness in the community in its entirety about the necessity of solidarity, tolerance and mutual respect among every citizen in Aruba;

b. Organize community get-togethers and direct constructive dialogues, hereby contributing to an Aruba where a better human understanding and a more harmonious life are created;

c. Execute educational projects, especially for the youth, about the possible consequences of any type of discrimination or stigmatization of groups and at the same time, promote a spirit of respect and peace for every human being.

Fundacion RESPETA BIDA...semper corda wants to approach organizations and groups that share the one similar philosophy of working together for the good of Aruba.

Fundacion RESPETA BIDA...semper corda is registered at the Chamber of Commerce and will initiate its projects in the near future.

To be able to realize its projects, the Board of Directors of *Fundacion RESPETA BIDA...semper corda* is making an appeal to the community and to the generosity of each and every one of us for a financial contribution. The Board of Directors has authorized Marlon Pieters and David Cybul as volunteers to collect donations for the foundation.

Prime Minister Mike Eman inspired by Anne Frank.

Prime Minister Eman has a lot of sympathy for *Fundacion RESPETA BIDA...semper corda* and the goals that the foundation wants to realize for the community of Aruba.

Prime Minister Eman was inspired by the statue of Anne Frank in Costa Rica during his visit when he was representing the Dutch Kingdom. During this occasion he was informed by the Ambassador of

the Dutch Kingdom in Costa Rica about an avenue that was dedicated to Peace. At the Avenue of Peace the Prime Minister discovered the Anne Frank statue that was created by the Dutch sculptor Joep Coppens. This was enough reason for Prime Minister Eman to pay a visit to both Mr. Joep Coppens as well as the Anne Frank House museum.

Meanwhile, right here in Aruba, Prime Minister Eman was able to inspire some local citizens who were willing to organize activities and programs, similar to those in Costa Rica, thereby focusing on the protagonist role of Anne Frank.

Several representatives of the group of concerned citizens took the initiative to create a foundation that was made official on the 17th of December 2010 under the name *Fundacion RESPETA BIDA...semper corda*, or Foundation RESPECT LIFE... always remember.

On behalf of the entire Board of Directors of Fundacion RESPETA BIDA...semper corda,

Venezuela grants Chavez power to rule by decree

CARACAS, Venezuela - Venezuelan lawmakers on the weekend granted President Hugo Chavez extraordinary legislative powers to govern the country by decree for the next 18 months.

Applause broke out as the heavily pro-government national assembly approved the measure just three weeks after the opposition made landmark gains to take 40 percent of seats -- 67 out of 165 -- in the new assembly from January.

The new legislature will end the unhindered advantage the ruling United Socialist Party of Venezuela has enjoyed for five years in passing laws, after opposition parties bo-

cotted the 2005 elections and were shut out of the process.

The new law Friday appears to mean that Chavez could now simply overrule the legislature by issuing a decree.

"We declare as approved the law authorizing the president... to issue decrees with rank, worth and power of laws on matters delegated to him," said National Assembly President Cilia Flores, adding the measure would be submitted to Chavez immediately.

It is the fourth time Chavez has been allowed to rule by decree since he was first elected in 1999. He was given special powers in 2000, 2001 and 2008, when he approved more

than 100 laws.

Chavez asked for the special powers to quickly deal with the heavy rains and flooding in past weeks which has killed 38 people and affected some 130,000.

Chavez also ordered expropriation of 2 Venezuelan companies that produce construction materials.

Chavez yesterday ordered the expropriation of two Venezuelan companies that produce construction materials. He said both companies had been paralyzed and the government will now use them to boost production of materials from aluminum sheeting to bathroom supplies.

Chavez has seized a growing list of private companies while pledging to turn Venezuela into a socialist state.

He also has ordered officials to seize dozens of large farms in western Zulia and Merida states as he pushes ahead with an effort to take control of big swaths of agricultural land.

Opposing the seizures, which began Friday, some ranchers staged a road-blocking protest in the area.

Chavez said yesterday that army troops and members of a civilian militia would enforce the takeovers if there is resistance.

Have you had your breakfast today? The Old Fisherman offers breakfast with an Aruban twist



Linda and Ramon Pimienta with their son Raymond, at right

have been with the company for ten years are ready to serve you with a smile.

Besides serving traditional breakfast dishes such as eggs sunny side up with ham and cheese, scrambled or plain they also serve pastechi horna (a small pie pocket with different fillings), crêpes, sweet crêpes and bagels with cream cheese, smoked salmon or boiled eggs.

If you want to really experience the Aruban twist you might want to try something



For ten years The Old Fisherman has been serving local cuisine with an international twist for lunch and dinner and they have managed to stay on top by using high quality fresh ingredients. From their fish cakes with "funchi" (polenta) and "pan

from the local breakfast menu served on pan grandi (rama) or a baguette. You can try the delicious kerrie-kerrie (a typical Aruban flaked fish), conch, fish egg, shrimp, fish fillet, fish cake and the chicken soup or you can have fruit salad and yoghurt.



"bati" nicely presented to soup of the day accompanied by delicious deserts.

Whatever your taste might be you are assured that at the Old Fisherman there is a dish on the menu for you at breakfast, lunch and dinner.

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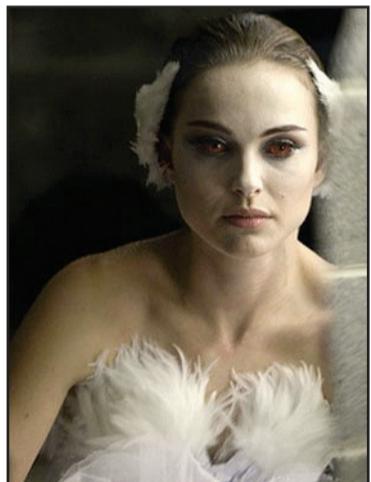


'TRON: Legacy' tops US box office



A digitally altered 'young' Jeff Bridges in 'Tron: Legacy'

LOS ANGELES (AFP) — "TRON: Legacy," a Disney redo of a 1982 sci-fi hit, topped the North American box office in its first weekend out, preliminary industry data showed.



Natalie Portman in Black Swan

The Jeff Bridges flick netted 43.6 million dollars in weekend sales, Exhibitor Relations said.

"TRON" by far outpaced its top rival, "Yogi Bear," a blend of 3D and live-action fun, also in its premiere weekend. Yogi notched up 16.7 million dollars in earnings, the data showed.

In the third spot was "The Chronicles of Narnia" latest, "Voyage of the Dawn Treader" -- the third installment of the allegory based on C.S. Lewis's classic childrens' books. It earned 12.4 million dollars.

Mark Wahlberg boxing drama "The Fighter" was in fourth place with 12.2 million dollars, while romantic thriller "The Tourist," starring Johnny Depp and Angelina Jolie, earned 8.7 million dollars.

Slipping to the sixth spot was "Tangled," the animated

Disney fable about long-haired Princess Rapunzel, which netted 8.67 million dollars.

"Black Swan," a ballet thriller starring Natalie Portman as a dancer in a New York company exploring the dark



sides of the industry and her own sensuality, edged down to seventh. It made 8.3 million dollars.

"How Do You Know," a new Reese Witherspoon romantic comedy, made 7.6 million in its premier weekend, and the number eight spot.

"Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part One," earned 4.85 million dollars, bringing the overall take from the penultimate film in J.K. Rowling's popular series about a boy wizard to 265 million dollars.

"Unstoppable," starring Denzel Washington and Chris Pine as two daring, blue-collar heroes trying to prevent a collision with a runaway train full of hazardous materials, took 10th place with 1.8 million dollars in ticket sales.

'Stray Bullet' scores first prize in Dubai

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AFP) — "Stray Bullet" by



Sheikh Said bin Mohammed bin Rashed al-Maktoum hands Lebanese film director George Hachem the best film Muhr Award for his movie "Stray Bullet"

Lebanese director Georges Hachem won first prize at the the Dubai International Film Festival on Sunday, this year a showcase for new Arab talent.

The film, set shortly after the start of Lebanon's 1975-1990 civil war, tells the story of a young woman who is torn between a fiance picked by her family and a former lover who suddenly reappears in her life.

The film stars Nadine Labaki, director of the highly acclaimed 2007 production, "Caramel."

Hachem received the gold Muhr award from French actress Isabelle Huppert, who was in Dubai to present her own film, "Copacabana."

Twelve films competed in the best Arab film category, including entries from Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq and Morocco.

Jordanian director Mohammed al-Hushki's film, "Transit Cities," won the Special Jury Prize.

The film tells the story of a woman who returns to Jordan after a divorce in the United States and tries to pick up her former life, but finds it impossible to reintegrate into a changed society.

Egyptian entry "Six, Seven, Eight" won best actor for Maged al-Kidwany and best actress for Bushra. In the film, director Mohamed Diab addresses the issue of sexual harassment in Egypt.

The festival's Lifetime Achievement Award went to Malian director Souleymane Cisse.

Director Nayla al-Khaja won first prize in the Emirati film category with "Bored," an uncompromising portrait of relationships in an arranged marriage.

A total of 157 films from 57 countries were screened at the festival this year, in its seventh edition.

Vacature

SETAR N.V. is het Arubaanse telecommunicatiebedrijf dat een totaal pakket van telecommunicatievoorzieningen en de infrastructuur hier voor beheert. Als gevolg van de groei van onze activiteiten, zijn wij ter versterking van ons team op zoek naar jonge, enthousiaste en dynamische medewerkers voor de volgende functies:

APPLICATIEBEHEERDER – MOBILE APPS

Als Applicatiebeheerder belast met mobiele systeemontwikkeling ben je verantwoordelijk voor het ontwikkelen en het correct laten functioneren van de onder jou vallende applicaties. Bovendien onderhoud je de relatie met de betreffende leveranciers en ondersteun je de product-eigenaren en eindgebruikers van deze applicatie. Je werkt in een team van medewerkers die van communicatietechnologie houden en geboeid blijven door IT-innovaties.

Als applicatiebeheerder houd je bij ons o.a. bezig met de volgende taken:

- het in kaart brengen van wensen en eisen van eindgebruikers en het van daaruit tot een aanpassing van het functionele ontwerp komen
- het analyseren, ontwerpen en bouwen van maatwerkapplicaties draaiend op de meest gangbare mobiele platformen (zoals BlackBerry, Android, Apple) en het bouwen van interfaces tussen de verschillende Billingplatformen van SETAR en een verscheidenheid van netwerkelementen
- het opstellen van verbeteringsvoorstel n.a.v. gebruikerswenslijsten, inclusief het opstellen van kosten/baten van de wijziging en impactanalyse m.b.t. het proces en organisatie
- het rapporteren van systeemincidenten overeenkomstig de Service Level Agreements met de leveranciers en regulier voortgangsoverleg hierover met de leveranciers
- het ondersteunen van test- en bouwwerkzaamheden, conversie en het geven van cursussen.

Functieveristen:

- Minimaal HBO diploma
- Kennis van netwerken, interfaces, protocollen en services
- Kennis en aantoonbare ervaring in de ontwikkeltools en omgevingen zoals C#, Java, Javascript, HTML, PHP
- Ervaring met Unix (HP of Sun genieten de voorkeur)
- Kennis van informatievoorziening en automatisering
- Analytische vaardigheid voor het analyseren/oplossen van verbeteringen en productiestoringen
- Kennis van een projectmatige aanpak van systeemaanpassingen.

APPLICATIEBEHEERDER - WEB APPS

Functie- inhoud

Als Web Applications Developer ben je primair verantwoordelijk voor het ontwikkelen, beheren en onderhouden van de corporate websites. Als webdeveloper werk je samen met de marketing medewerkers, technisch- en grafisch designers aan verschillende online diensten evenals websites voor externe klanten.

Tot de taken van de aan te stellen Web Applications Developer zullen onder meer behoren:

- het zelfstandig ontwikkelen van nieuwe applicaties, interfaces naar verschillende systemen en het aanpassen van bestaande online diensten
- het doen van voorstellen voor het verbeteren van bestaande applicaties en architectuur en het schrijven van documentatie
- het zelfstandig ontwikkelen van nieuwe online diensten in PHP en ASP
- het onderhouden en aanpassen van de bestaande applicaties in PHP
- het initiëren van verbeteringstrajecten.

Functie-eisen

- Minimaal HBO diploma
- Tenminste twee jaren ervaring in soortgelijke functie
- Minimaal één (1) jaar ervaring met ontwikkeling in PHP
- Ruime kennis van PHP, JSP, ASP, HTML, Javascript, DHTML/CSS, XML en Ajax
- Kennis en ervaring met Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, Flash en DreamWeaver en het ontwikkelen van webapplicaties conform W3C-standaarden
- Kennis van MySQL en SQL en (diverse) Open source omgevingen
- Systeemebeheer kennis op Unix/Linux niveau is vereist voor het aandragen van oplossingen samen met systeemebeheerders

APPLICATIE BEHEERDER - CRM

Als Applicatiebeheerder belast met CRM, ben je verantwoordelijk voor het ontwikkelen en correct laten functioneren van de onder jou vallende applicaties. Bovendien onderhoud je de relatie met de betreffende leveranciers en ondersteun je de product-eigenaren en eindgebruikers van deze applicatie. Je werkt in een team van medewerkers die van communicatietechnologie houden en geboeid blijven door IT-innovaties.

De Taken:

Als Applicatie beheerder CRM ben je een aanwinst voor ons bouw/applicatieteam. Je houdt je bezig met het ontwerpen, bouwen en integreren van complexe applicaties. Samen met het ontwikkelteam vertaalt je de behoeften van de eindgebruikers tot ontwerp, oplossing en implementatie van de architectuur. De talloze mogelijkheden van Siebel ken jij als geen ander. Je fungert dan ook als vraagbaak en coach waar mogelijk minder ervaren collega's bij het gebruik en inrichten van de applicatie.

Functie-eisen

- Minimaal HBO diploma
- Bedrijfskundig, technisch en organisatiekundig inzicht
- Kennis van Oracle Siebel Tools is aan te bevelen.
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Interesse:

U wordt verzocht om uw sollicitatiebrief met uw curriculum uiterlijk 29 december 2010 te richten aan Mevr. Sonia A. Damian, Human Resources Manager, Seroe Blanco 29-A of sturen via e-mail adres: sonia.damian@setar.aw Voor nadere informatie kunt u bellen naar (297) 5251307.

Eto'o named African Footballer of the Year



JOHANNESBURG (AFP) - Cameroon striker Samuel Eto'o was named African Footballer of the Year a record fourth time at the annual CAF awards ceremony in Cairo Monday.

The 29-year-old native of central town Nkon finished ahead of first-time finalist Asamoah Gyan of Ghana and former winner Didier Drogba of Ivory Coast in a poll among national coaches on the continent.

Eto'o, who won the most prestigious African football individual honour three years in a row from 2003, was voted the best player at the FIFA Club World Cup won by his Italian team Inter Milan last Saturday.

The Cameroonian scored a clinical, close-range second goal in a 3-0 triumph over TP Mazembe from Democratic Republic of Congo, the first African club to reach the final of the 10-year competition.

Inter are now champions of the world, Europe and Italy and the goals of former Real Madrid, Real Mallorca and Barcelona star Eto'o have played a pivotal role in those successes.

However, he had meagre success as captain of the

Cameroon 'Indomitable Lions' this year with the team making a meek quarter-finals exit from the African Nations Cup in Angola.

The leading all-time scorer in this competition scored once against Zambia and Tunisia, but the 'Lions' suffered a shock group loss to Gabon and defending champions Egypt outclassed them in the first knockout round.

Germany can win Euro or World Cup - Loew

BERLIN (AFP) - Germany coach Joachim Loew said Monday his side can win Euro 2012 or the 2014 World Cup after showing itself to be one of football's most consistent teams.

"My gut feeling ... is that our team can win a title in 2012 or in 2014," Loew told sports weekly Kicker in an interview.

"Looking back, together with Spain we really are one of the most consistent teams. In the last two years our performances have got better and better ... It's only when this happens that you can win

Cameron then fared disastrously at the first World Cup hosted by Africa last June, losing all three group matches under the leadership of Eto'o and were the first country eliminated from the competition.

Internal strife bedevilled the squad with some players trying to tell French coach Paul le Guen who to select and the only consolation for Eto'o was goals against Denmark and the Netherlands.

TP Mazembe, the four-time African Champions League winners who stunned Internacional of Brazil 2-0 in the United Arab Emirates last week before finishing runners-up to Inter Milan, were named Club of the Year.

Milovan Rajevac, the humble Serb coach who made 2010 such a memorable year for Ghana, took the Coach of the Year award. He resigned after the World Cup to join Saudi Arabian club Al-Ittihad Jeddah.

Other award winners included Al-Ahly and Egypt midfielder Ahmed Hassan (Africa-based Player) and Ghana midfielder Kwadwo Asamoah (Most Promising Talent) while Ghana were predictably named best national team.

championships."

Germany finished third in the World Cup in South Africa earlier this year, demolishing England 4-1 and Argentina 4-0 in some of the tournament's most exciting football. They lost to eventual winners Spain in the semi-finals.

Germany have four wins from four qualifiers for Euro 2012, due to be held in Ukraine and Poland, and are top of Group A with a five-point lead over their rivals.

Loew, whose trademark "lucky" blue cashmere sweater worn during the World Cup sold for one million euros (1.3 million dollars) for charity on Saturday, also rejected accusations there were too many youngsters in the side.

"I have ascertained that quality and technical ability are more important than experience. I don't care if someone is only 18 and has only played 10 Bundesliga games," Loew said.

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Masters field grows by 13 thanks to world ranking list

AUGUSTA (AFP) - Teen star Ryo Ishikawa of Japan and Italian brothers Francesco and Edoardo Molinari were among 13 golfers who booked a trip to the 2011 Masters on Monday from the final 2010 world rankings.

The annual tee off to the men's major championship season at Augusta National Golf Club invites players who are among the top 50 in the world rankings at the end of the previous year.

Newcomers have boosted the field for next April's event at Augusta National Golf Club to 92 players, with qualifying still possible by winning certain US PGA Tour events or reaching the top 50 in the week before the tournament.

Ishikawa, a 19-year-old prodigy, fired the lowest round on a major golf tour, a 58, in the final round to win the Japan Tour's Crowns tournament last May. He has won eight titles in Japan but none outside his homeland since 2007.

Ishikawa jumped from 51st to 45th in the rankings on October 31 and stood 37th in the year-end rankings released Monday.

Asians joining him at Augusta next April include countrymen Yuta Ikeda, ranked 41st, and Hiroyuki

Fujita, ranked 48th, plus South Korean Kim Kyung-tae, the highest-ranked Asian player at 30th.

The Molinari siblings, 15th-ranked Francesco standing three spots ahead of his brother, helped Europe defeat the United States in the Ryder Cup last October in Wales.

Joining them from Europe in reaching the Masters on Monday were England's Ross Fisher at 33rd, Spain's Alvaro Quiros at 49th and Swedes Robert Karlsson on 17th and Peter Hanson at 40th.

South African Charl Schwartzel, ranked 34th, and Americans Rickie Fowler at 28th and Sean O'Hair on 42nd also sealed their invitations to the Masters, which will be played April 7-10.

Australian Brendan Jones, ranked 55th, was the highest-ranked player not already on the Masters invitation list who failed to qualify on year-end rankings.

US star Phil Mickelson will try to defend the Masters crown at Augusta while former world number one Tiger Woods tries to end his longest major win drought at 10.

Woods has won four times at Augusta National but has not taken the green jacket symbolic of Masters supremacy since 2005.



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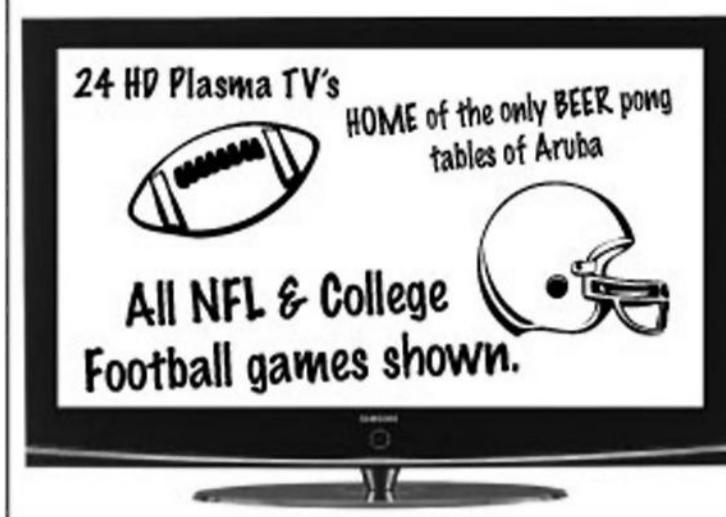
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Falcons, Steelers make playoffs with Colts, Eagles near

INDIANAPOLIS (AFP) - Atlanta and Pittsburgh clinched NFL playoff berths on Sunday while fellow division leaders Indianapolis, Kansas City and Philadelphia won key games to seize control of their destiny.

Matt Ryan completed 20 of 35 passes for 174 yards and three touchdowns to spark Atlanta past host Seattle 34-18, stretching the Falcons' win streak to eight games, their longest since 1998, and their NFL-best record to 12-2.

The Falcons became the first National Conference team to secure a playoff spot and can clinch the NFC South title, their first division crown since 2004, and a home-field edge in the playoffs by defeating New Orleans next week.

"It is going to be a great atmosphere next week," Ryan said. "I think everybody is looking forward to it."

Pittsburgh backed into the post-season as quarterback Mark Sanchez ran for the first touchdown in 12 quarters for the New York Jets' offensive unit in a 22-17 victory over the Steelers, their first-ever triumph at Pittsburgh.

"It was a relief," Jets tackle Wayne Hunter said. "It really was a relief and a big burden off our shoulders."

An hour after the loss, the Steelers (10-4) were told by the NFL that based on a complicated set of tie-breakers, they had clinched a playoff spot despite the defeat.

Victories over struggling Carolina and Cleveland to end the season will give them the division crown and a first-round playoff bye as well.

"We've just got to win two more games, very winnable games, teams we match up



Michael Vick #7 of the Philadelphia Eagles rushes against the New York Giants

well against," Steelers safety Ryan Clark said.

Indianapolis, trying to avoid missing the playoffs for the first time since 2001, beat Jacksonville 34-24 to pull even with the Jaguars atop the AFC South at 8-6. Their tie-break edge means they need two wins for the division title.

"It's a good win but it's just one game," Colts quarterback Peyton Manning said. "We have to be able to come out and do it again next week."

The Colts denied the visiting Jaguars their first division crown in 11 years in their showdown after Tyjuan Hagler of the Colts scooped up the ball on an onside kick attempt and ran 41 yards for the decisive touchdown.

Philadelphia scored 28 points in the last 7:28 to stun the New York Giants 38-31, as Michael Vick threw for

said. "It's about as empty as you get to feel in this business."

Matt Cassel, playing 11 days after an emergency appendectomy, threw for 184 yards to lead Kansas City past St. Louis 27-13. The Chiefs improved to 9-5 and remained one game ahead of San Diego in the AFC West.

"Everything felt good," Cassel said. "And a win makes it feel better."

The AFC playoff picture cleared behind already-in New England and Pittsburgh with the Jets and Baltimore joining Indianapolis and Kansas City as the teams to beat with the Jaguars and San Diego in pursuit.

Baltimore's Ray Rice ran for 153 yards and scored two touchdowns to spark the

Ravens over New Orleans 30-24, snapping a six-game win streak for the reigning Super Bowl champion Saints.

"It just don't get no better," Baltimore linebacker Ray Lewis said.

In the NFC, Atlanta, Philadelphia and New Orleans have the edge in the playoff hunt with Chicago and Green Bay fighting for the NFC North crown while Tampa Bay and the Giants lurk for wild-card spots.

Then there is the NFC West, where co-leaders Seattle and St. Louis lost on Sunday, each falling to 6-8 to ensure the playoff-bound division champion will not have a winning record.

Green Bay fell to 8-6 with a 31-27 loss at New England, leaving the Packers 1 1/2 games behind Chicago in the division and level with Tampa Bay and one game behind the Giants in the fight for the last playoff spot.

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City star Tevez withdraws transfer request

LONDON (AFP) - Manchester City revealed on Monday that star striker and captain Carlos Tevez has withdrawn his transfer request following clear-the-air talks.

Tevez had shocked City by demanding a move earlier this month after claiming his relationship with the Premier League club's hierarchy had deteriorated beyond repair.

When City rejected the Argentine's claims in a strongly-worded statement it appeared certain the former Manchester United player would be on his way out of Eastlands.

However, Tevez met with City boss Roberto Mancini on Friday and, after also speaking to club officials, he has decided to remain with the team he joined from United in 2009.

"Manchester City can confirm to its fans that 'clear the air' talks have been held with Carlos Tevez," a statement on City's website said.

"Carlos's contract remains unchanged."

The 26-year-old Tevez scored 29 goals in his first City season and has 10 in 18 appearances this term, having been appointed captain before the season started.



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Jennings out up to six weeks with broken left foot

MILWAUKEE, December 20, 2010 (AFP) - Australian big man Andrew Bogut is going to have to carry a lot more of the load for the Milwaukee Bucks now that Brandon Jennings, the club's top scorer, is out with a broken left foot.

The NBA team announced Monday that Jennings, a 21-year-old point guard who is averaging team-highs of 17.9 points and 5.5 assists a game, will be sidelined four to six weeks as he recovers from surgery to repair the injury.

John Hammond, the Bucks' general manager, said Jennings was examined after a 95-86 loss to Utah on Saturday and it was found he had

broken the bone on the outside of his foot that connects to the little toe.

Jennings said he first felt pain in an earlier loss to NBA overall leader San Antonio but kept playing and was on the court for 30 minutes against Utah.

Jennings had started 114 consecutive games for Milwaukee, seven of them in the playoffs, since being selected 10th in the 2009 NBA Draft.

"It shows you a lot about Brandon, the people who haven't had a chance to watch him in his first year and a quarter, I don't think anyone is going to question his competitive spirit," Hammond said.



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